

1971

THE OSKAR DIETHELM HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Dr. Arthur A. Anderson
 Dr. Helen Burke
 Dr. Alexander Leary
 Dr. Nelson Russell
 Dr. Donald Macgregor
 Dr. David E. Brown
 Dr. A. Louise Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. David E. Carlson
 Dr. Jacob E. Christ
 Dr. Howard H. Cooper
 Dr. James Curtis
 Dr. and Mrs. Marjorie Pain
 Miss Elizabeth P. Day
 Dr. Hermal S. Fisher
 Dr. Paul Edwards
 Mrs. W. G. Ellashberg
 Dr. Ralph Ellis, Jr.
 Dr. Aaron F. Ellis
 Dr. Arturo F. Gallardo
 Dr. and Mrs. Fritz F.
 Dr. and Mrs. Frank Giam
 Dr. and Mrs. Sanford G.
 Dr. David C. Grawert
 Dr. John Guyton
 Mrs. Thomas F. Hagley
 Dr. Joseph E. Hasey
 Dr. Pe
 Dr. Jo
 Dr. He
 Dr. L.
 Miss Veronica H. Lassar
 Dr. Alfred B. Lewis, Jr.

Dr. Louis Miller
 Dr. Robert M. Man
 Dr. Robert M. Man
 Dr. Alexander W. Martin
 Dr. Henry J. Michael
 Dr. George H. Miller
 Dr. Harold E. Miller
 Dr. Anna J. Miller
 Dr. Edward L. Minsky, Jr.
 Dr. Earl S. Minton
 Dr. Marshall A. Moses
 Dr. Louis E. Mulk
 Dr. Charles F. Richards
 Dr. Herbert S. Rindley
 Dr. Burton S. Schiele
 Mrs. Henry Schuman
 Dr. W. C. Scott
 Dr. E. C. Schreier
 Dr. Arthur K. Sheridan
 Mrs. Anne Shuttleworth
 Dr. S. Mervyn Small
 Dr. Gerard P. Smith
 Dr. James B. Spencer, Jr.
 Dr. David Thompson
 Dr. Joseph H. Torrey
 Miss Lillian A. Whitrow
 Dr. Charlotte L. Wayne
 Dr. W. H. Webb
 Dr. Philip J. Womerskirch
 Dr. George J. Wright, Jr.
 Dr. Harold S. Wright
 Dr. J. J. Zicker

FRIENDS

of the

OSKAR DIETHELM HISTORICAL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

1971

Department of Psychiatry
 Cornell University Medical College
 525 East 68th Street
 New York, New York 10021

The Friends of the Oskar Diethelm Historical Library have, through their consistent and generous contributions, helped sustain the library's place as one of the finest specialized collections of psychiatric history in the country. Supported by a reference collection of related historical works in medicine, philosophy and psychology numbering more than 2,300 the Oskar Diethelm Historical Library has served since 1958 as the research facility for the section on the history of psychiatry and the behavioral sciences of the Department of Psychiatry and for interested scholars from other institutions here and abroad.

In 1936 when Dr. Oskar Diethelm was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at the Cornell University Medical College, he brought with him the conviction that the history of the development of psychiatric thought is mandatory for one's understanding of the discipline today. Soon after his arrival he gathered a collection of significant works in the history of psychiatry. In 1953 a separate library was established to house the psychiatric and related material published before 1920. On his retirement in 1962, it was named the Oskar Diethelm Historical Library to honor the doctor whose foresight made the library possible.

Since 1964 the Friends of the Library have shared in supporting the library's growth. In 1971 the Friends numbered ninety-four, and through their generous donations we were able to obtain forty-six books for the library. Also added were 124 annual reports of mental hospitals. Our reference collection was augmented by one hundred volumes acquired both as gifts and through purchases from a variety of funds, including the Friends.

An Anonymous Friend enabled us to purchase another 107 works illustrating the history of psychiatry. We select two of the rarest to represent this group:

John Haslam. A Letter to the Right Honorable the Lord Chancellor, On the Nature and Interpretations of Unsoundness of Mind, and Imbecility of Intellect. London: 1823.

The first systematic attempt to define disordered intellect and to set forth criteria of insanity was made by John Haslam (1764-1844) in his classic Medical Jurisprudence As It Relates to Insanity (1817). This was the first book on forensic psychiatry published in English; it gained wide medical acceptance and was republished in the United States the following year. He returned to this theme in a now-rare tract A Letter to the Right Honorable the Lord Chancellor, etc. Here, he reiterates several points developed in his original work, most notably his definitions of the three basic states of the human mind: sound mind, insanity, and idiocy. The occasion for this pamphlet was the enquiry into Lord Portsmouth's sanity in 1822, repeating the work of an earlier Commission in 1814. Certain eminent physicians had testified in support of the defendant's sanity, others held that he was insane. The Lord Chancellor had delivered a judgment in conflict with Haslam's opinions expressed in his 1817 classic. Incensed, Haslam published his Letter in hopes of gaining the attention of the legal profession that had thus far eluded him.

Robert Whytt. An Essay on the Vital and Other Involuntary Motions of Animals. Edinburgh: 1751. Robert Whytt (1714-1766), the eminent Edinburgh neurologist, approached the physiology of the

central nervous system in the modern spirit. We have discussed in a previous report his 1765 book on Disorders which have been commonly called nervous, hypochondriac or hysteric. His early volume gives the neurophysiological background for his psychiatry and is one of the most remarkable in the history of neurology. Whytt believed that parts of the body couldn't act without the intervention of the "sentient principle" or life force. He succeeded in establishing that sympathy (reflex) is dependent not on peripheral nerve anastomoses but on the central nervous system, and in particular on the spinal cord. Thus in trying to substantiate his "vital theory" with clinical experiments, he actually proved the reverse to be true by proving that the spinal cord is essential for reflex action.

Another neurological tract purchased through the donations of the Friends is of particular interest in these days of organ transplants:

W. Gilman Thompson, M.D. "Successful Brain Grafting."

This is a reprint from an article in the New York Medical Journal for June 28, 1890. Dr. Thompson (1856-1927) was a professor of physiology at the New York University Medical College and visiting physician at Presbyterian Hospital and our own New York Hospital at this time. This article presents the findings of one of the earliest clinical researches on brain grafting. His conclusion speaks for itself: "I think the main fact of this experiment - namely, that brain tissue has sufficient vitality to survive for seven weeks the operation of transplantation without wholly losing its identity as brain substance - suggests an interesting field for

further research, and I have no doubt that other experimenters will be rewarded by investigating it."

Samuel Latham Mitchill, M.D. The Remarkable Sermons of Rachel Baker. London: 1815.

In 1968 we reported the acquisition of an account of Rachel Baker, a 19-year old girl from upper New York State who had been brought to New York City to be studied because of her unusual behavior: she preached lengthy and coherent sermons in her sleep. With the arrival of the current book we have evidence that her fame spread as far as London. Of the "Several Medical Gentlemen" responsible for the book, the most important was Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchill (1764-1831) of the New York Hospital. After consultation with other physicians he wrote a long essay on unusual states of consciousness, comparing Rachel's devotional somnium with sleep, trances, and with the conventional diagnostic categories of hysteria, melancholia and mania.

Our collection of foreign-language psychiatric works has been steadily growing. In 1971 we were able to add the following:

A. Adamucci. Système Mécanique des Fonctions Nerveuses. Paris: 1808, 2 vols. in 1 vol.

Although it may sound like a neurological study, this is an important psychological work on the intellectual and moral faculties of man. Divided in two parts, the first section describes the nervous system in general, the sensations and their properties, and the manner in which the mind perceives and utilizes these sensations. Part II deals with the knowledge gained through sensations,

memory, imagination and the analytic and synthetic methods of the mind. It ends with his passages on will and liberty; the latter was a theme to which Adamucci (? - 1827) was devoted throughout his life.

Through the support of Anonymous Donors to Dr. Diethelm this year, we were able to complete a run of volumes important in the history of psychiatric journals:

Friedrich Nasse, M.D. Jahrbucher fur Anthropologie. Leipzig: 1830.

In 1818 Nasse (1778-1851) issued the first journal written entirely by psychiatrists, Zeitschrift fur psychische Arzte. Revised in format in 1820, the journal was made more inclusive, paying increased attention to such emerging psychiatric studies as animal magnetism and various types of psychiatric illnesses. The journal continued in this form until 1826. During these 8 years, Nasse's journal served the psychiatric community with many valuable original contributions, theoretical discussions, and clinical observations from noted psychiatrists of the time, most notably in the areas of cretinism, and early psychotherapy, especially hypnosis. In 1830 Nasse instituted a new psychiatric journal more in keeping with his evolving psychiatric views, away from hypnosis and toward personality study. Only one volume of Jahrbucher fur Anthropologie appeared - the volume we were able to obtain with the Friends' generosity. This volume offered a wealth of psychiatric observations by the leading figures in the field at this time. The word "anthropology" in the title was used in the sense as it relates to the human personality; the entire volume concentrates on studies of the human personality

from several views. The pathology and treatment of insanity, theoretical and practical psychiatry in general, and the relation of psychiatry to theosophy were the main areas covered. Additionally, several discussions dealt with histories of psychiatric patients, and post-mortem follow-up studies of the same patients. The volume concludes with Nasse's excellent discussion about mental and emotional factors in the psychopathology of certain of his patients under close clinical observation.

Again this year we are deeply indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Blatt for their continuing support of our manuscript and graphics collections through a special fund. Among the items added to the Blatt collection was a bust of S. Weir Mitchell (1829-1914), the late 19th century neuropsychiatrist and novelist from Philadelphia, who was renowned for his "rest cure."

Another contribution of the Blatts was an extraordinary print, "The Charenton Ministériel: Différentea monomanies des aliénés politiquea" by the celebrated Honoré Daumier (1808-1879). The term "monomania" was introduced by Jean E. D. Esquirol, chief physician to the Royal Asylum, Charenton, France. Daumier's caricature brings this scientific term to life in an unmistakable visual interpretation. Daumier had the power to grasp life in terms of its eternal and unchanging verities and to bring this view before the public in a milieu understandable by all. Thus was Daumier able to play an active part in the revolution that was in continual foment against the Bourgeoisie and all its allies, championing the peasant class in their struggle against servitude.

Miss Emily L. Martin and her sister, Mrs. Richard P. Carrigan, continued to give to the library a number of books, journals, clippings, and photographs illustrating the mental hygiene movement in the United States. Among the many items presented, we can only mention a few: autographed pictures of Clifford W. Beers, further material relating to D. H. Lawrence, William James, Alan Gregg, George S. Stevenson, Karl and William Menninger, and others. Through Miss Martin's efforts we also received gifts from Dr. Marian Elderton, Mr. Robert Mountsier and Mr. Silas R. Mountsier.

This year, the library was privileged to receive from The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital through the courtesy of Mr. R. C. Gifford and Miss Patricia Alderidge, a plaque bearing the ancient arms of Bethlem, taken from the wall of the old Cavendish Hotel, London. The site of the Cavendish came into the Hospital's possession in 1830 as part of a former crown estate. The 1830 transaction consisted of the Hospital's giving up property at Charing Cross which it had owned since at least 1403 and which was required in order to lay out what is now Trafalgar Square. During the 19th century if not before, buildings standing on Bethlem-owned ground were given these iron plaques, and a number can still be seen about London. The venerable Bethlem Hospital had its origins in London in the 13th century and is currently located in the outskirts at Beckenham, Kent.

In 1972 we hope that many more Friends will join us. Although we are fortunate in owning most of the high-priced classics, the minor items

we seek of the 19th century, less prestigious but of great importance for the serious student, often have price tags of from \$10 to \$75 today. As we are a research facility and not primarily a rare book library we try to draw a limit, albeit a flexible one; beyond a certain price we will order a microfilm or a photocopy of the desired item. As can well be appreciated, nonetheless, it is infinitely more desirable and convenient to work from an original copy. Next year, if you have not joined us before, we hope you will do so. If you are already a loyal Friend, would you help us by finding one more Friend to join your group, or perhaps increasing the category of your gift?

Opportunities also exist for longer term contributions which can be recognized with an appropriate bookplate giving either the name of the donor or of the person honored by the donor. Gifts of \$5,000 or more to Cornell University Medical College enable us to establish an endowment fund. The income therefrom would be used yearly to strengthen the collections and would create a perpetually growing and important gift or memorium. If it seems proper to establish such a bequest in one's will we would be glad to discuss how it may be handled.

Once again, our sincere thanks.

We would like to express our thanks to the following individuals and institutions (parentheses indicate those persons particularly helpful) who have assisted in the growth of the library through the presentation of various other gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Adams
 Dr. Alexandra Adler
 American Philosophical Society
 (Dr. Whitfield Bell)
 Dr. Henry Ansbacher
 Dr. and Mrs. Eric T. Carlson
 Dr. Paul Cranefield
 Dr. John Donnelly
 Dr. Grace R. Ferguson
 Dr. Sanford Goldstone
 Dr. Richard Hunter
 Dr. Richard Kohl
 Dr. Joseph Lander
 Dr. Ida MacAlpine
 Dr. Jacques M. Quen
 Mrs. Meribeth M. Simpson
 Mrs. Michael S. Stockheim
 Dr. Augustin Cueva Tameriz
 Mr. Anthony A. Walsh

MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS, 1971

HONORARY MEMBER

Dr. Oskar Diethelm

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Blatt
Mrs. Frances S. Cartmell
Mrs. Dorothy V. Dalton
An Anonymous Friend

PATRON MEMBERS

Dr. and Mrs. Eric T. Carlson
Dr. Francis D. Kane

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Dr. Jacques M. Quen
Dr. Hans Syz

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Dr. Gerald A. Anderson
Dr. Stuart Ashman
Dr. Ralph D. Baker
Mr. Edward W. Bourne
Dr. Remo R. Cerulli
Dr. Jonathan O. Cole
Dr. John E. Deitrick
Mrs. Oskar Diethelm
Dr. Lawrence A. Downs
Mr. and Mrs. Birkett Elvidge
Dr. Francis J. Hamilton
Dr. Marilyn G. Karmason
Dr. M. Dorothea Kerr
Dr. Bernard Landis

Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Lenzner
Dr. Lillian E. McGowan
Dr. Bernard M. Malloy
Dr. Bradford G. Murphey
Dr. Carl Muschenheim
Dr. Peter F. Ostwald
Dr. Edwin R. Ranzenhofer
Dr. Walter F. Riker, Jr.
Dr. Philip S. Robbins
Dr. George Samios
Dr. Marie-Louise Schoelly
Dr. Edward E. Seelye
Dr. Robert J. Stoller

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Dr. Arthur A. Anderson	Dr. Louis Linn
Dr. Valer Barbu	Dr. Alan A. McLean
Dr. Alexander Bearn	Dr. Robert MacLeod
Dr. Nelson Borelli	Dr. Alexander R. Martin
Dr. Donald Boudreau	Dr. Stanley T. Michael
Dr. David E. Brown	Dr. George Mora
Dr. A. Louise Brush	Dr. Timothy B. Moritz
Mr. and Mrs. Arvid V. Carlson	Dr. Anna J. Munster
Dr. Jacob R. Christ	Dr. Edward L. Pinney, Jr.
Dr. Howard N. Cooper	Dr. Esra S. Petursson
Dr. James Curtis	Dr. Martha K. Reese
Dr. and Mrs. Norman Dain	Dr. Louis E. Reik
Miss Elizabeth H. Day	Dr. Charles H. Richards
Dr. Hannah S. Decker	Dr. Herbert S. Ripley
Dr. Paul de Gara	Dr. Burtrum C. Schiele
Mrs. W. G. Eliasberg	Mrs. Henry Schuman
Dr. Ralph Engle, Jr.	Dr. W. C. Scott
Dr. Aaron Feder	Dr. Jeri A. Sechzer
Dr. Arturo F. Gallardo	Dr. Arthur K. Shapiro
Dr. and Mrs. Fritz Fuchs	Dr. Anne Shuttleworth
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Glenn	Dr. S. Mouchly Small
Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Goldstone	Dr. Gerard P. Smith
Dr. Donald C. Greaves	Dr. James H. Spencer, Jr.
Dr. John Gussen	Dr. David Thompson
Dr. Thomas F. Henley	Dr. Joseph W. Verhey
Dr. Joseph C. Hinsey	Miss Lillian A. Wahrow
Dr. Peter T. Janulis	Dr. Henriette L. Wayne
Dr. John G. Kidd	Dr. Robert W. Webb
Dr. Helen P. Langner	Mr. Philip J. Weimerskirch
Dr. L. Gerald Laufer	Dr. George J. Wright, Jr.
Miss Veronica H. Lazarus	Dr. Harold S. Wright
Dr. Alfred B. Lewis, Jr.	Dr. J. M. Zucker